

# Missouri State Archives

## Finding Aid 998.107

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### Manuscript Collections

#### Weller Family Letter

#### Letter, 1860

*Abstract:* This is a photocopy of a personal letter from Z.S. and Mary Weller of Jefferson City to John M. Irwin of Ohio. The 1860 letter mentions Jefferson City society, southerners, politics, abolitionists, the Underground Railroad and the Missouri Methodist Conference.

*Extent:* 1 folder

*Physical Description:* Paper

*Alternative Formats:* JPG, PDF

*Location:* Missouri State Archives

### Administrative Information

*Access Restrictions:* No special restrictions.

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*Preferred Citation:* Personal letter, 04/30/1860; Box 9 Folder 10; Letter, 1860; RG998.107 Weller Family Letter; Missouri State Archives, Jefferson City.

*Acquisition Information:* Gift; Accession #1983-0063

*Processing Information:* Processing completed by EW on 12/15/2016. Last updated by EW on 07/29/2022.

### Historical and Biographical Notes

Zaccheus Sherman Weller (1820-1898) was a Methodist minister born in Connecticut who moved to Jefferson City, Missouri by way of Ohio in 1860. During the Civil War, the Methodist Conference transferred him to the Pittsburgh, PA Conference. At the close of the War, he moved back to Missouri. He eventually settled in Macon. In March 1898, he was bestowed an honorary

Doctor of Divinity degree from Chaddock College in Quincy, IL. He died nine months later and was buried in Oakwood Cemetery in Macon.

## **Additional Descriptive Information**

### **Other Finding Aids**

MS456 James Sullivan Civil War Collection  
RG133 Adjutant General

### **Related Material**

Union Provost Marshal papers, available online:  
<https://s1.sos.mo.gov/records/archives/archivesdb/provost/>.

## Letter, 1860

*Extent:* 1 Letter

*Arrangement:* N/a

### Scope and Content

This is a photocopy of a personal letter from Z.S. and Mary Weller of Jefferson City to John M. Irwin of Ohio. The letter mentions Jefferson City society, southerners, politics, abolitionists, the underground railroad and the Missouri Methodist Conference.

A PDF of the letter is available on Manuscript DVD #1 in the Reference Room. JPG images can be found on Missouri Digital Heritage as part of the Civil War in Missouri collection. online here: <https://mdh.contentdm.oclc.org/digital/collection/p16795coll39>.

### Container List

Location	Box	Folder	Contents	Date
	9	10	Photocopy of letter	04/30/1860

Page 1:

Addressed to Mr. John M. Irwin, Salineville, Columbiana County, Ohio  
April 30th 1860

Dear Bro – Presuming you would like to hear about us or from us & having made a promise to write before I left you. I now take my pen to fulfil that promise. I had purpose moving by Rail Road – but after counting the cost, I found it much cheaper to go by the river. I went through your town on the 15th March. That evening at 5.o.clock we went aboard a Boat at Wellsville, and were soon under headway for Cincinnatti [sic] – arrived at Cin.a on Sunday morning I went to church at the old Wesley Chapel. There I left my family to continue their journey on the boat to Saint Louis while I took the cars across the country in order to be in time to meet the Missouri Conference at Hudson City on the 22nd, arrived in due time. We had a very pleasant session & adjourned on Monday the 26th. I rec'd my

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to this peace. I took the cars & went down to Saint Louis to meet my family, found that they had already arrived in safety & had taken the cars & had gone up to Jefferson City. I followed as a matter of course. The brethren had heard of their coming & therefore appointed a committee to provide for them & to meet them at the station. Hence I found them in a private family in comfortable quarters & well & happy. I began to look about for a house & soon found one so in two weeks from the time we left home we were keep house again. The society here is small, but we have a large & flourishing Sabbath School. The brethren are very kind & generous & will probably give me about \$800, for my support this year. We have some opposition from the Southerners, but it don't amount to much in this place. There is some political excitement. The National Democracy have brought out rather an unpopular

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State ticket & they are fearful of a defeat at the next August election. The free Democracy anticipate a triumph. There will be very close running at all events. We might have carried the day long ago had it not been for the treachery of northern men, or dough faces I might call them. There are hundreds here, who were once abolitionist in the free States who are now working hand in hand with the Pro-slave party. There is one not far from here – who once was engaged while in Ohio – in running off negroes on the underground rail – who is now trying to get up a mob to drive off one of our preachers from a certain appointment, for no other cause – than the fact, that he belongs to the M.E. Church & of course suspected as being an anti slavery man. “My God what is man!” And I learn that much of the trouble in this State originates with just such men. They were tools of the abolitionists in the East, & coming here, they at once become the tools of pro-slavery men. I have less confidence in the abolitionist than I had before I came here, they are not to be trusted. We want genuine antislavery men here & no others – if we have success. Our children have been sick with the measles, but are now about well again. We are all in our usual health. Charles goes to school at our

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University. On the whole we like Mo very much so far. True it is a little rough & hilly about here (not so much though as about Saline) but the soil is good & the scenery is most delightful. There is also a fine prospect for fruit Cherries are now about as large as peas. Peaches are as large as small hickory nuts & apples begin to show themselves finely. Gardens are quite flourishing. Some of the corn is up & Cooks well. Some have but just finished planting & others are planting still. Settlers are coming in every day – in some instances by colonies – land is rising. Farries [sic] that could be purchased near the city two years ago for \$10 – cannot be had now for less than \$25 & 30. Out 14 & 15 miles improved lands can still be bought low but this state of things cannot continue long. Land must rise as emigration comes in. Mrs. Weller says she likes everything but the institution & the butter – the butter is getting better however, but I must close. Give my love to Bro & Sister Coburn & family. Our regards to all the brothers & Sisters. Our love to yourself & Lady. Write soon & remember us in your prayers.

Yours sincerely

Z.S. Weller

Mary Weller